4% additional CVD on edible oils, (ii) Administrative Measures like banning of exports of non-basmati rice, wheat, major edible oils, major pulses, imposition of stock limits on rice, wheat, edible oils and oil seeds, periodic enhancements in MSP for rice and wheat, using MEP to regulate exports of onion and basmati rice, maintaining CIP for rice and wheat and measures taken by Forward Market Commission and (iii) Monetary Measures taken by RBI by sucking liquidity of Rs. 30,000 crores from the system by increasing CRR to 7.5% on October 30, 2007.

Amendment in essential commodities act to check price rise

3428. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has expressed great concern over price rise and its impact on 'aam aadmi' and urged the State Governments to strengthen the PDS and act against hoarders and speculators;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the necessary amendments would be made in the Essential Commodities Act to give more powers to States to take action against hoarders and speculators; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) and (b) Rise in prices as well as availability of Essential Commodities have remained the concern of the Central Government and accordingly State Governments/Union Territories are being advised from time-to-time to take appropriate action against hoarders under the provisions of "Essential Commodities Act, 1955" and "Prevention of Blackmarketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980". The Central Government has also been holding review meetings with Food Secretaries of all States/UTs with a view to ensuring smooth functioning of Targeted Public Distribution System (TPDS) in the country.

(c) and (d) State Governments are vested with wide powers to take action against hoarders through State Control Orders issued by them under the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The Central Government has *vide* Notifications dated 29.8.2006 and 7.4.2008 further empowered State Governments by keeping in abeyance certain provisions of the Removal of (Licensing requirements, Stock limits and Movement Restrictions) on Specified Foodstuffs Order 2002. State Governments can now issue Control Orders regulating purchase, movement, sale, supply, distribution or storage for sale in respect of wheat, pulses, rice, edible oil and edible oilseeds. No further amendments to the Essential Commodities Act are under consideration.

Poor families categorised as APL

3429. SHRI MATILAL SARKAR: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has thought over the poor families who are being categorized as APL;

(b) whether it is a fact that these families, though poor, are not getting any benefit that is meant for the poor;